

The Examiner cites Walance for teaching a time domain reflectometry method. Walance states that it has been conventional practice to employ interactive, time domain reflectometry (TDR) which relies upon the ability of a skilled technician to make visual interpretation of a displayed TDR waveform, and thereby hopefully identify the bridged taps and the lengths of any laterals that may extend there-from. Because this process is subjective, it is not only imprecise, but very difficult to automate. Col. 1, lines 38-47.

Therefore, Walance solves the shortcomings of conventional TDR-based schemes for locating energy reflecting anomalies, by use of an objective frequency domain reflectometry (FDR) based mechanism. Col. 1, lines 50-54. Based on the foregoing description, it is apparent that Walance does not teach time domain reflectometry. In particular, Walance teaches away from the use of TDR. Therefore, Walance does not disclose TDR as asserted by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Cabot does not appear to teach reflectometry. Cabot transmits a plurality of sinusoidal test tones to a device under test (DUT). The output of the DUT is measured and analyzed to determine the spectral characteristics of the frequencies which are components of the output waveform of the DUT. Consequently, this would require applying a test signal at both the operator end and measuring an output signal at the subscriber end. As opposed to time domain reflectometry, as described in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, which can provide information about the whole length of the line without testing both the input and the output by applying test signals at one end and measuring the reflected received signals at the same end.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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For the above reasons, claims 1 and 18 and their dependent claims should additionally be deemed patentable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


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